

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A primary alkaline battery, comprising:
a cathode comprising
manganese dioxide and
carbon particles comprising expanded graphite particles and non-expanded
graphite particles, the expanded graphite particles having a kerosene absorption
greater than about ~~2.7~~ 3.6 milliliters per gram;
an anode;
a separator; and
an alkaline electrolyte.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Original) The battery of claim 1, wherein the expanded graphite particles have a
kerosene absorption greater than about 4.0 milliliters per gram.
5. (Original) The battery of claim 1, wherein the expanded graphite particles have a
kerosene absorption greater than about 4.5 milliliters per gram.
6. (Original) The battery of claim 1, wherein the expanded graphite particles have a
kerosene absorption greater than about 5.0 milliliters per gram.

7. (Currently amended) The battery of claim 1, wherein the carbon particles ~~comprise cathode~~ ~~comprises~~ between about 75% and 25% of expanded graphite particles by weight and between about 25% and 75% of non-expanded graphite particles by weight.

8. (Currently amended) The battery of claim 1, wherein the carbon particles ~~comprise cathode~~ ~~comprises~~ between about 60% and 40% of expanded graphite particles by weight and between about 40% and 60% of non-expanded graphite particles by weight.

9. (Original) The battery of claim 1, wherein the non-expanded graphite particles have an average particle size of less than about 40 microns.

10. (Currently amended) A primary alkaline battery, comprising:
a cathode comprising

manganese dioxide and

carbon particles comprising expanded graphite particles and non-expanded graphite particles, the expanded graphite particles having a BET surface area of ~~from greater than~~ about 5 m²/g to about 15 m²/g;

an anode;

a separator; and

an alkaline electrolyte.

11. (Currently amended) The battery of claim 10, wherein the expanded graphite particles have a BET surface area of from ~~greater than~~ about 10 m²/g to about 15 m²/g.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The battery of claim 10, wherein the cathode comprises between about 75% and 25% of expanded graphite particles by weight and between about 25% and 75% of non-expanded graphite particles by weight.

15. (Original) The battery of claim 10, wherein the cathode comprises between about 60% and 40% of expanded graphite particles by weight and between about 40% and 60% of non-expanded graphite particles by weight.

16. (Original) The battery of claim 10, wherein the non-expanded graphite particles have an average particle size of less than about 40 microns.

17-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) A primary alkaline battery, comprising:
a cathode comprising

manganese dioxide and

carbon particles comprising expanded graphite particles and non-expanded graphite particles, the expanded graphite particles having a D₅₀ particle size that is greater than ~~about 35 microns~~ 40 microns and less than or equal to about 100 microns;

an anode;

a separator; and

an alkaline electrolyte.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently amended) The battery of claim 22, wherein the expanded graphite particles have a D_{50} particle size that is greater than ~~between about~~ 40 microns and less than or equal to about 50 microns.

25. (Currently amended) The battery of claim 22, wherein the carbon particles comprise ~~cathode comprises~~ between about 75% and 25% of expanded graphite particles by weight and between about 25% and 75% of non-expanded graphite particles by weight.

26. (Currently amended) The battery of claim 22, wherein the carbon particles comprise ~~cathode comprises~~ between about 60% and 40% of expanded graphite particles by weight and between about 40% and 60% of non-expanded graphite particles by weight.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Original) A primary alkaline battery, comprising:
a cathode comprising

manganese dioxide and
expanded graphite particles having a kerosene absorption greater than
about 4.4 milliliters per gram;

an anode;

a separator; and

an alkaline electrolyte.

29. (Original) The battery of claim 28, wherein the graphite particles have a kerosene absorption between about 5 and about 6 milliliters per gram.

30. (Original) The battery of claim 28, wherein the graphite particles have a kerosene absorption between about 5.2 and about 5.6 milliliters per gram.

31. (Original) The battery of claim 28, wherein the graphite particles have a kerosene absorption about 5.4 milliliters per gram.

32. (Original) The battery of claim 28, wherein the cathode comprises between about 2% and about 10% of expanded graphite particles by weight.

33. (Original) The battery of claim 28, wherein the cathode comprises between about 3% and about 6% of expanded graphite particles by weight.

34. (Original) The battery of claim 28, wherein the cathode comprises between about 80% and about 95% of manganese dioxide by weight.

35. (Original) The battery of claim 28, wherein the cathode comprises between about 85% and about 90% of manganese dioxide by weight.

36. (Original) The battery of claim 28, wherein the cathode further comprises non-expanded graphite particles.

37. (Currently amended) The battery of claim 36, wherein the carbon particles comprise ~~cathode comprises~~ between about 75% and 25% of expanded graphite particles by weight and between about 25% and 75% of non-expanded graphite particles by weight.

38. (Currently amended) The battery of claim 36, wherein the carbon particles comprise ~~cathode comprises~~ between about 60% and 40% of expanded graphite particles by weight and between about 40% and 60% of non-expanded graphite particles by weight.

39. (Original) A primary alkaline battery, comprising:

a cathode comprising
manganese dioxide and
expanded graphite particles having a total pore volume greater than about
0.1 milliliter per gram;
an anode;
a separator; and
an alkaline electrolyte.

40. (Original) The battery of claim 39, wherein the expanded graphite particles have a total pore volume greater than about 0.15 milliliter per gram.

41. (Original) The battery of claim 39, wherein the expanded graphite particles have a total pore volume greater than about 0.2 milliliter per gram.

42. (Original) The battery of claim 39, wherein the cathode comprises between about 2% and about 10% of expanded graphite particles by weight.

43. (Original) The battery of claim 39, wherein the cathode comprises between about 3% and about 6% of expanded graphite particles by weight.

44. (Original) The battery of claim 39, wherein the cathode comprises between about 80% and about 95% of manganese dioxide by weight.

45. (Original) The battery of claim 39, wherein the cathode comprises between about 85% and about 90% of manganese dioxide by weight.

46. (Original) The battery of claim 39, wherein the cathode further comprises non-expanded graphite particles.

47. (Currently amended) The battery of claim 46, wherein the carbon particles comprise ~~cathode comprises~~ between about 75% and 25% of expanded graphite particles by weight and between about 25% and 75% of non-expanded graphite particles by weight.

48. (Currently amended) The battery of claim 46, wherein the carbon particles comprise ~~cathode comprises~~ between about 60% and 40% of expanded graphite particles by weight and between about 40% and 60% of non-expanded graphite particles by weight.

49. (Original) The battery of claim 46, wherein the non-expanded graphite particles have an average particle size of less than about 40 microns.